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USE IT AGAIN

Broadcast by Nathan Koenig, Food Distribution Administration, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, May 17, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY: Now a brief message for poultrymen, fruit and vegetable producers, and people in the food distribution trades .... a message from the War Food Administration, represented by Nathan Koenig. Nate....

KOENIG: A little over two weeks ago, the War Food Administration announced a Nation-wide campaign to encourage greater salvage and re-use of fresh fruit and vegetable containers and egg cases. Most farmers are aware of the need for this action. As you know, the manufacture of baskets, boxes and cases takes a considerable amount of lumber, wire, nails, and labor. All these are now in great demand for direct war purposes. As a result, manufacturers are unable to make all of the new containers that are needed here at home. In order to help meet this situation, it is necessary to save and re-use as many of the wooden containers as possible.

Many fruit and vegetable growers and egg producers in different parts of the country have for a long time used second-hand containers. Now that new containers are scarce throughout the country, this practice of re-using produce baskets, boxes, and cases is, of necessity, becoming more widespread. Producers and distributors realize that unless greater use is made of second-hand containers, food may go to waste in producing areas for the lack of shipping packages.

If you as a farmer have already obtained your season's supply of new or used containers, you are fortunate. If not, it would be a good idea to take care of your needs now. In buying containers, even second-hand ones, you may not be able to get the kind or size of package you have always used for fruits or vegetables. In that case you will have to resort to the next best type of container that is available. For example, you may have to use a bushel box instead of a bushel basket, or a different style crate instead of the one to which you've become accustomed. The important thing is to make use of the kind of container that is available. This is necessary to prevent waste of food on the farms and to make sure that there are enough packages for moving fresh fruits and vegetables from producing areas to markets throughout the country.

Through the War Food Administration's program, food wholesalers, retailers, restaurant operators, and others are being urged to open containers without damaging and to get the empties back into the hands of dealers or farmers for re-use. In doing this, retailers and other food handlers realize that they are not only aiding in the war but also helping to ease the container shortage.

Just recently the eastern originating railroads approved a freight rate reduction for the shipment of used containers back into some of the southern producing areas. This lower rate is now awaiting acceptance by the southern railroad lines. In the past, refrigerator cars which brought fruits and vegetables to northern markets returned empty. With the reduced rate in effect, it will be possible for them to carry back salvaged fruit and vegetable containers to make up for the shortage of new ones.

Every salvaged container that is re-used fills the place of a new one. It also means more lumber and metal for crating military supplies needed to win the war.

KADDERLY: So save that container .....

KOENIG: And use it again!

KADDERLY: Farm and Home friends, you've heard Nathan Koenig of the War Food Administration.

Now the market reports.

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